

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS 2006!

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What is a Hurricane?

A hurricane is a type of tropical cyclone, which is a generic term for a low pressure system that generally forms in the tropics. The cyclone is accompanied by thunderstorms and, in the Northern Hemisphere, a counter-clockwise circulation of winds near the earth's surface. Tropical cyclones are classified as follows:

Tropical Depression

An organized system of clouds and thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds* of 38 mph (33 kt**) or less

Tropical Storm

An organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 39-73 mph (34-63 kt)

Hurricane

An intense tropical weather system of strong thunderstorms with a well-defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 74 mph (64 kt) or higher

* Sustained winds

A 1-minute average wind measured at about 33 ft (10 meters) above the surface.

** 1 knot = 1 nautical mile per hour or 1.15 statute miles per hour. Abbreviated as "kt".

Saffir Simpson Hurricane Scale:

- **Tropical Storm** — Winds 39-73 mph
- **Category 1 Hurricane** — winds 74-95 mph (64-82 kt)
No real damage to buildings. Damage to unanchored mobile homes. Some damage to poorly constructed signs. Also, some coastal flooding and minor pier damage.
- Examples: Irene 1999 and Allison 1995
- **Category 2 Hurricane** — winds 96-110 mph (83-95 kt)
Some damage to building roofs, doors and windows. Considerable damage to mobile homes. Flooding damages piers and small craft in unprotected moorings may break their moorings. Some trees blown down.
- Examples: Bonnie 1998, Georges (FL & LA) 1998 and Gloria 1985
- **Category 3 Hurricane** — winds 111-130 mph (96-113 kt)
Some structural damage to small residences and utility buildings. Large trees blown down. Mobile homes and poorly built signs destroyed. Flooding near the coast destroys smaller structures with larger structures damaged by floating debris. Terrain may be flooded well inland.
- Examples: Keith 2000, Fran 1996, Opal 1995, Alicia 1983 and Betsy 1965
- **Category 4 Hurricane** — winds 131-155 mph (114-135 kt)
More extensive curtainwall failures with some complete roof structure failure on small residences. Major erosion of beach areas. Terrain may be flooded well inland.
- Examples: Hugo 1989 and Donna 1960
- **Category 5 Hurricane** — winds 156 mph and up (135+ kt)
Complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings. Some complete building failures with small utility buildings blown over or away. Flooding causes major damage to lower floors of all structures near the shoreline. Massive evacuation of residential areas may be required.
- Examples: Andrew (FL) 1992, Camille 1969 and Labor Day 1935

National Hurricane Center Data

What to do if a Hurricane Warning is Issued

- Store outdoor items.
- Put up your hurricane shutters.
- Make sure you have a radio with fresh batteries.
- Move boats to a safe location.
- Secure your valuable papers, Get Cash and Gas up your vehicles.
- Make sure you have enough food, water, ices, and medications on hand.

Shelters in Broward County

Broward County Emergency Management and the American Red Cross annually designates shelters for use during the hurricane season. Shelters open on a as needed basis and are announced well advanced of any impact of a storm. The designated shelters change annual. Currently the Broward County Government web site shows the 2005 approved shelters: <http://www.broward.org/disaster/epi00304.pdf>

Special Needs Shelters have special requirements: Copied from:

http://www.broward.org/disaster/hm_special_needs.htm

- Broward County operates a Special Needs Shelter Program for qualified residents in an evacuation area in the event of a hurricane.
- Special needs residents are defined as

persons with health-related problems who do not qualify for admission to a public shelter operated by the American Red Cross due to the nature of their health care needs.

- If you feel you qualify for a special needs shelter: **YOU MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE, BEFORE A STORM THREAT.** Call Broward County Elderly and Veterans Services Division at 954-537-2888 or TDY 954-537-2882.
- If the Hurricane Hotline has already been activated in response to a storm threat, it is TOO LATE to register for a special needs shelter. Call a family member, friend, physician, or as a last resort, hospital.

SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER SERVICES

Special Needs shelters CAN accommodate:

- Persons who need assistance administering their own medication injections. You must bring all medications with you to the shelter.
- Persons who need assistance with ostomy management and catheters.
- Persons with minimal restrictions with daily living activities, including only minimal or no supervision from medical

personnel.

- Persons who require minimal monitoring of an unstable medical condition.
- Persons who need intermittent oxygen.
- Persons who are incontinent because of medical conditions and are accompanied by a caregiver.

Special Needs Shelters CANNOT accommodate:

- Persons in a wheelchair who cannot transfer to a bed or toilet without assistance.
- Persons who require 24-hour electrical power for their treatment modality.
- Persons who are incontinent and not accompanied by a caregiver.
- Persons who have advanced Alzheimer's disease.
- Persons who need air-conditioning 24-hours a day.

Table copied from:

http://www.broward.org/disaster/hm_special_needs.htm

Have a Safe Place to Take Your Pets...



"If a hurricane emergency is declared in Broward County, residents with pets living in an evacuation area (including mobile home residents)

will have the option of relocating to a "pet friendly" shelter. The shelter is located at a school in Tamarac.

The shelter will house pets in one area of the school and their owners in a separate area. Only pet owners and their pets will be allowed in this shelter. The pet owner must stay in the shelter and cannot just drop off their pet. The American Red Cross will run the shelter section for the pet owners and the Humane Society of Broward County will be responsible for the pet section. Pet owners should use this pet friendly shelter only as a last resort. Preferred options include going to a friend/relative home not in the evacuation area, a motel/hotel that accepts pets, or boarding pets at a private kennel.

Because of space limitations, those who want to use the shelter during declared emergencies must pre-register in person. Registration begins June 8 at the Humane Society, 2070 Griffin Road, Fort Lauderdale (one block west of I-95) between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday."
(<http://www.broward.org/disaster/epi00202.htm#Evacuating>)

Service animals who assist people with disabilities are the only animals allowed in Red Cross Shelters. It may be difficult, if not impossible, to find shelter for your animals in the midst of a disaster, so plan ahead. Do not wait until disaster strikes to do your research.

- Contact hotels and motels outside your immediate area to check policies accepting pets and restrictions on number, size, and species. Ask if "no pet" policies could be waived in an emergency. Keep a list of "pet friendly" places, including phone numbers, with other disaster information and supplies.
- Ask friends, relatives, or others outside the affected area whether they could shelter your animals. If you have more than one pet, they may be more comfortable if kept together, but be prepared to house them separately.
- Prepare a list of boarding facilities and veterinarians who could shelter animals in an emergency" include 24 hour phone numbers.
- Ask local animal shelters if they provide emergency shelter or foster care for pets in a disaster. Animal shelters may be overburdened caring for the animals they already have as well as those displaced by a disaster, so this should be your last resort.



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Broward's Hurricane Hotline

(954) 831-4000

American Red Cross (954) 797-3800

Animal Control (954) 359-1313

Bellsouth (888) 757-6500

Broward Emergency Management

(954) 831-3900

FPL (954) 797-5000

Humane Society (954) 463-4870

Peoples Gas/TECO 1-877-832-6747

Comcast 1-800-824-8644 or

954-252-1937

Water...



Store water in plastic containers such as soft drink bottles and avoid using containers that will decompose or break, such as mild cartons or glass bottles. A normally active person needs to drink at least two quarts of water

each day. Hot environments and intense physical activity can double that amount. Children, nursing mothers and ill people will need more.

- Store one gallon of water per person per day (two quarts for drinking, two quarts for food preparation/sanitation)
- Keep at least a three day supply of water for each person in your household

Food...

Store at least a three day supply of non-perishable food. Select foods that require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking and little or no water. If you must heat food, pack a can of sterno. Select food items that are compact and lightweight.



- ready to eat canned meats, fruits, and vegetables
- canned juices, milk, soup
- staples such as sugar, salt, pepper
- high energy foods – peanut butter, jelly, crackers, granola bars, trail mix
- vitamins
- food for infants, elderly persons, or special diet foods
- comfort/stress foods – cookies, candy, sweetened cereals, instant coffee

IMPORTANT:

NO GENERATORS AND GRILLING INDOORS OR ON CONDO BALCONIES

First Aid Kit....

Assemble a first aid kit for your home and one for each car. A first aid kit should include:



- Sterile adhesive bandages in assorted sizes.
- 2 inch sterile gauze pads (4-6)
- 4 inch sterile gauze pads (4-6)
- Hypoallergenic adhesive tape
- Triangular bandages (3)
- 2 inch roller bandages (3 rolls)
- 3 inch roller bandages (3 rolls)
- Scissors, Tweezers, Needle
- Moistened towelettes
- Antiseptic, Thermometer, Tongue blades (2),
- Tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant
- Assorted sizes of safety pins
- Cleansing agent/soap
- Latex gloves, and Sunscreen.

Non-prescription drugs:

- Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever
- Anti-diarrhea medication
- Antacids for upset stomachs
- Laxatives
- Syrup of Ipecac (used to induce vomiting if advised by Poison Control Center)
- Activated Charcoal (use if advised by the Poison Control Center)

Tools and Supplies:

- Generator
- Mess kits, or paper cups and plates and plastic utensils
- Emergency preparedness manual
- Battery operated radio and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Cash or travelers checks, change
- Non-electric can opener, utility knife
- Fire extinguisher, small canister, ABC type
- Tube tent, Pliers, Tape, Compass
- Matches in waterproof container
- Aluminum Foil, Plastic storage containers
- Signal flare, Paper and pencil
- Needles and thread, Medicine dropper
- Shut-off wrench, to turn off household gas and water
- Whistle, Plastic sheeting, Map of the area shelters



HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS 2006! CONTINUED...

Sanitation:

Toilet paper, towelettes, soap, liquid detergent, feminine supplies, personal hygiene items, plastic garbage bags, ties (for personal sanitation), Plastic bucket with tight lid, disinfectants, and household chlorine bleach.

Clothing and Bedding:

Include at least one complete change of clothing and footwear per person. Sturdy shoes or work boots, rain gear, blankets or sleeping bags, hat and gloves, thermal underwear, sunglasses

Special Items....

Remember family members with special needs, such as infants and elderly or disabled persons.

For Baby:

- formula, diapers (one month supply), bottles, powdered milk, medications

For Adults:

- Heart and high blood pressure medication, insulin, prescription drugs, denture needs, contact lenses and supplies, extra eye glasses

Entertainment:

- Games and books.

Important Family Documents:

- Keep these records in a waterproof, portable container
- Will, insurance policies, contracts, deeds, stocks and bonds

- Passports, social security cards, immunization records
- Bank account numbers
- Credit card account numbers and companies
- Inventory of valuable household goods, important telephone numbers
- Family records (birth, marriage, death certificates)
- Photo identification, Proof of occupancy, Medical history

Meet with your family....

- Discuss the types of disasters that could occur.
- Explain how to prepare and respond
- Discuss what to do if advised to evacuate
- Practice what you have discussed
- Discuss how your family will stay in contact if separated:
- Pick two meeting places:
 - 1 – a location a safe distance from your home
 - 2 – a place outside of your neighborhood in case you cannot return home
- Choose an out-of-state friend as a "check in contact" for everyone to call.

Plan how your family will stay in contact if separated by disaster:

- Pick two meeting places:
 - 1) A location a safe distance from your home in case of fire.
 - 2) A place outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home
- Choose an out-of-state friend as a "check-in-contact" for everyone to call.

Complete these steps

- Post emergency telephone numbers by every phone
- Show responsible family members how and when to shut off water, gas and electricity at main switches
- Install a smoke detector on each level of your home, especially near bedrooms" test monthly and change the batteries two times each year.
- Install the Carbon Monoxide detectors
- Contact the fire department to learn more about home fire hazards
- Learn first aid and CPR. Contact the local American Red Cross for training information.

Meet with your neighbors

Plan how the neighborhood could work together after a hurricane. Know your neighbor's skills (medical, technical). Consider how you could help neighbors who have special needs, such as elderly or disabled persons. Make plans for child care in case parents can't get home.

Names for 2006 Hurricanes....

Alberto	Beryl	Chris
Debby	Ernesto	Florence
Gordon	Helene	Isaac
Joyce	Kirk	Leslie
Michael	Nadine	Oscar
Patty	Rafael	Sandy
Tony	Valerie	William

Top Safety Tips for a Blackout



- Only use a flashlight for emergency lighting. Never use candles!
- Turn off electrical equipment you were using when the power went out.
- Avoid opening the refrigerator and freezer.
- Do not run a generator inside a home or garage.
- If you use a generator, connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator. Do not connect a generator to a home's electrical system.
- Listen to local radio and television for updated information.

How Can I Prepare Before a Blackout Happens?

Assemble essential supplies, including:

- Flashlight
- Batteries
- Portable radio
- at least one gallon of water
- a small supply of food.
- Due to the extreme risk of fire, do not use candles during a power outage.

If you have space in your refrigerator or freezer, consider filling plastic containers with water, leaving about an inch of space inside each one. (Remember, water expands as it freezes, so it is important to leave room in the container for the expanded water). Place the containers in the refrigerator and freezer. This chilled or frozen water will help keep food cold if the power goes out, by displacing air that can warm up quickly with water or ice that keeps cold for several hours without additional refrigeration.

If you use medication that requires refrigeration, most can be kept in a closed refrigerator for several hours without a problem. If unsure, check with your physician or pharmacist.

If you use a computer, keep files and operating systems backed up regularly. Consider buying extra batteries and a power converter if you use a laptop computer. A power converter allows most laptops (12 volts or less) to be operated from the cigarette lighter of a vehicle. Also, turn off all computers, monitors, printers, copiers, scanners and other devices when they're not being used. That way, if the power goes out, this equipment will have already been safely shut down. Get a high quality surge protector for all of your computer equipment. If you use the computer a lot, such as for a home business, consider purchasing and installing an uninterruptible power supply (UPS). Consult with your local computer equipment dealer about available equipment and costs.



If you have an electric garage door opener, find out where the manual release lever is located and learn how to operate it. Sometimes garage doors can be heavy, so get help to lift it. If you regularly use the

garage as the primary means of entering your home upon return from work, be sure to keep a key to your house with you, in case the garage door will not open.

If you have a telephone instrument or system at home or at work that requires electricity to work (such as a cordless phone or answering machine), plan for alternate communication, including having a standard telephone handset, cellular telephone, radio, or pager. Remember, too, that some voice mail systems and remote dial-up servers for computer networks may not operate when the power is out where these systems are located. So even if you have power, your access to remote technology may be interrupted if the power that serves those areas is disrupted. Check with remote service providers to see if they have backup power systems, and how long those systems will operate.

Keep your car fuel tank at least half full because gas stations rely on electricity to power their pumps.

Follow energy conservation measures to keep the use of electricity as low as possible, which can help power company(ies) avoid imposing rolling blackouts.

Specific Information for People With Disabilities

If you use a battery-operated wheelchair, life-support system, or other power-dependent equipment, call your power company before rolling blackouts happen. Many utility companies keep a list and map of the locations of power-dependent customers in case of an emergency. Ask them what alternatives are available in your area. Contact the customer service department of your local utility company(ies) to learn if this service is available in your community.



If you use a motorized wheelchair or scooter, have an extra battery. A car battery also can be used with a wheelchair but will not last as long as a wheelchair's deep-cycle battery. If available, store a lightweight manual wheelchair for backup.

If you are Blind or have a visual disability, store a talking or Braille clock or large-print timepiece with extra batteries.

If you are Deaf or have a hearing loss, consider getting a small portable battery-operated television set. Emergency broadcasts may give information in American Sign Language (ASL) or open captioning.

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Using a Generator

If you are considering obtaining a generator, get advice from a licensed professional, such as an electrician. Make sure the generator is listed with Underwriter's Laboratories or a similar organization. Some municipalities, Air Quality Districts, or states have "air qual-

ity permit" requirements. A licensed electrician will be able to give you more information on these matters. Always plan to keep the generator outdoors -- never operate it inside, including the basement or garage. Do not hook up a generator directly to your home's wiring. The safest thing to do is to connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator. Connecting a cord from the generator to a point on the permanent wiring system and back-feeding power to your home is an unsafe method to supply a building during a power outage.

What Do I Do During A Blackout?

Turn off or disconnect any appliances, equipment (like air conditioners) or electronics you were using when the power went out. When power comes back on, it may come back with momentary "surges" or "spikes" that can damage equipment such as computers and motors in appliances like the air conditioner, refrigerator, washer, or furnace.

Leave one light turned on so you'll know when your power returns.

Leave the doors of your refrigerator and freezer closed to keep your food as fresh as possible. If you must eat food that was refrigerated or frozen, check it carefully for signs of spoilage.

Use the phone for emergencies only. Listening to a portable radio can provide the latest information. Do not call 9-1-1 for information -- only call to report a life-threatening emergency.

Eliminate unnecessary travel, especially by car. Traffic signals will stop working during an outage, creating traffic congestion. Remember that equipment such as automated teller machines (ATMs) and elevators may not work during a power outage.

If it is hot outside, take steps to remain cool. Move to the lowest level of your home, as cool air falls. Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing. Drink plenty of water, even if you do not feel thirsty. If the heat is intense and the power may be off for a long time, consider going to a movie theater, shopping mall, or "cooling shelter" that may be opened in your community. Listen to local radio or television for more information.

If it is cold outside, put on layers of warm clothing. Never burn charcoal for heating or cooking indoors. Never use your oven as a source of heat. If the power may be out for a prolonged period, plan to go to another location (relative, friend, or public facility) that has heat to keep warm.

Energy Conservation Recommendations

- To conserve power to help avoid a blackout, the power industry recommends:

- In heating season, set the furnace thermostat at 68 degrees or lower. In cooling season, set the thermostat at 78 degrees or higher. Consider installing a programmable thermostat that you can set to have the furnace or air conditioning run only when you are at home. Most power is used by heating and cooling, so adjusting the temperatures on your thermostat is the biggest energy conservation measure you can take.
- Turn off lights and computers when not in use. This is especially true about computer monitors - avoid using a "screen saver" and just simply turn the monitor off when you won't be using the computer for a while. Turn the computer off completely each evening. It is no longer true that computer equipment is damaged from turning it off and on.
- Close windows when the heating or cooling system is on.
- Caulk windows and doors to keep air from leaking, and replace old windows with new, energy-efficient windows.
- Clean or replace furnace and air-conditioner filters regularly.
- When buying new appliances be sure to purchase energy-efficient models.
- Wrap the water heater with an insulation jacket, available at most building supplies retailers.
- If you have to wash clothes, wash only full loads and clean the dryer's lint trap after each use.
- When using a dishwasher, wash full loads and use the "light" cycle. If possible, use the "rinse only" cycle and turn off the "high temperature" rinse option. When the regular wash cycle is done, just open the dishwasher door to allow the dishes to air dry.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with energy-efficient compact fluorescent lights.
- Use one large light bulb rather than several smaller ones.

For More Information

If you would like more information about rolling blackouts and how to deal with them, contact the power company that serves your area.

